



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Eloy S. Inos
Governor

Jude U. Hofschneider
Lieutenant Governor

28 MAR 2013

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
423 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sablan:

I write to reiterate my support for your initiative to get the U.S. Department of Agriculture to include the Northern Marianas in the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I understand that you have gone through great lengths to ensure the inclusion of a \$33 million increase in food stamp funding for SNAP in the long-delayed Farm Bill. I applaud your efforts and I am hopeful that the Agriculture Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Frank Lucas, will wholly support this legislation.

Based on recent assessments on the implementation of SNAP in the CNMI, I agree that the possible influx of an additional \$12 million to \$24 million to the CNMI economy will prove beneficial in this time of dire economic challenges.

In order to maximize this undertaking, I also seek your assistance to ensure that such legislation also include the funding we will need to undertake the implementation of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system in the Commonwealth.

Additionally, as we anticipate the inclusion of the Commonwealth in SNAP, I would also like to work closely with you in negotiations for increased funding under the existing NAP block grant until such time that we have fully transitioned to SNAP. I am certain that many families in need of this assistance will benefit and appreciate any additional help they can get to provide for their households.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloy S. Inos".

ELOY S. INOS